

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Lafferty, John L
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 4:02 PM
To: RAIO - Asylum Field Office Managers
Cc: Kim, Ted H; Mura, Elizabeth E; Caudill-Mirillo, Ashley B; Kirkland, Brooke A; Roberts, Rhonda J; Pilotti, David A; Potts-Hansen, Stephanie N; Tanner, Rebecca S
Subject: FW: Executive Order: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES - Service Center Instructions

Field leadership,

Just wanted to give you a heads-up on instructions you may need to begin implementing on Monday. In light of the language in Friday's Executive Order, we may need to put a hold on decision-making for asylum cases from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, and Libya. We may also be asked to postpone any scheduled interviews.

On Monday morning, you should plan on preventing any decision document from being issued in person or by mail to a national of any of the above countries unless or until you are instructed otherwise.

You should also review you list of upcoming interviews and be preparing to cancel any scheduled interviews for persons from one of the listed countries. DO NOT cancel any interviews, however, until you receive instructions from HQ on how to proceed. Hopefully, we will have more guidance on the interviews by Monday morning.

Please let Ted and I know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

John

From: Lafferty, John L
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 1:06:38 PM
To: Ruppel, Joanna; Nicholson, Maura J; Strack, Barbara L; Kim, Ted H; Stone, Mary M
Subject: RE: Executive Order: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES - Service Center Instructions

A literal reading of the EO and cited INA sections would not indicate that this processing suspension applies to the processing of asylum applications, but I understand why it might be wise to cancel interviews and place on hold cases from the relevant countries while we await additional guidance. Unless you want us to hold off, I will issue such guidance by e-mail today.

From: Ruppel, Joanna
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 11:46:47 AM
To: Nicholson, Maura J; Strack, Barbara L; Lafferty, John L; Kim, Ted H; Stone, Mary M
Subject: FW: Executive Order: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES - Service Center Instructions

FYI.

I think we also need guidance on how this applies to asylum. May want to cancel interviews and place in hold asylum applicants from these countries.

I am hoping we can work with the front office to get a memo to all USCIS staff to be issued Monday.

Joanna

Joanna Ruppel
Chief, International Operations Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

(b)(6)

From: Neufeld, Donald W
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:37:07 AM
To: Scialabba, Lori L; Renaud, Tracy L; Renaud, Daniel M; Davidson, Andrew J; Meckley, Tammy M; Ruppel, Joanna
Cc: McCament, James W
Subject: FW: Executive Order: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES - Service Center Instructions

I just sent this to the centers.

From: Neufeld, Donald W
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 11:35 AM
To: Baran, Kathy A; Campagnolo, Donna P; Crandall, Kristine R; Hazuda, Mark J; McCament, James W; Nolan, Connie L; Richardson, Gregory A; Selby, Cara M (Carrie); Thompson, Kirt; Velarde, Barbara Q; Zuchowski, Laura B; Tamanaha, Emisa T
Cc: Arroyo, Susan K; Bacote, Robert R (Bob); Byrne, Marie L (Louise); Cox, Sophia; Dougherty, Linda M; Douglas, Richard C; Doumani, Stephanie M; Fortes, Michael J; Hartmann, Rosemary M; Hope, Leslie K; Hutchings, Pamela G; Kane, Daniel J; King, Alexander R; La Bella, Magteld H; McCament, James W; McConnell, James E; Moran, Karla; Neufeld, Donald W; Padilla, April Y; Peck, Denis R; Sabga, George M; Thomas, Ronnie D; Watson, Dorcas B (Benita)
Subject: Executive Order: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES - Service Center Instructions

Center Directors and Deputies,

On January 27, 2017, the President signed an Executive Order that, in part, relates to the suspension of processing of certain immigration benefits. Section 3(c) of the Executive Order invokes sections 212(f) and 217(a)(12) of the INA to temporarily suspend the entry immigrants and nonimmigrants who are from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, and Libya for 90 days from the date of the Executive Order.

While we await further guidance, we must temporarily suspend adjudication of all applications, petitions or requests involving citizens or nationals of the listed countries. At this point there are no exceptions for any form types, to include I-90s or I-765s. Please physically segregate any files that are impacted by this temporary

hold pending further guidance. As you would expect, we will be developing a weekly report format for you to identify the number and types of cases on hold.

We expect to issue more detailed guidance and procedures in the coming days.

Please ensure this guidance is conveyed as soon as possible to all appropriate employees and get back to us with any questions. Also, please reply to let me know each center has received this message.

Thanks,

Don

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Lafferty, John L
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:11 AM
To: RAIO - Asylum Field Office Managers
Cc: Kim, Ted H; Caudill-Mirillo, Ashley B; Mura, Elizabeth E; Roberts, Rhonda J; Kirkland, Brooke A; Pilotti, David A; Tanner, Rebecca S; Potts-Hansen, Stephanie N
Subject: FW: RAIO's most time sensitive issues for Executive Order Implementation
Attachments: Executive Order on terrorism - RAIO questions.docx

Everyone,

As of the moment, the instructions I sent out yesterday stay in place until we get further instruction from agency/department leadership. As you can see from the below chain, Joanna has notified leadership of our present instructions and is seeking further guidance.

Given what is happening at the airports, I understand that some additional guidance is needed on CF/RF processing. CF/RF screenings should continue for anyone who is placed into ER and is referred to us after making a fear claim, or anyone subject to reinstatement or admin removal order who is referred to us after making a fear claim. We confer no benefit in the screening process, so our work in these areas should continue unless/until we are instructed otherwise.

Please feel free to continue to submit any questions that you may have.

John

From: Ruppel, Joanna
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:42:27 PM
To: Walters, Jessica S
Cc: Strack, Barbara L; Stone, Mary M; Lafferty, John L; Kim, Ted H; Nicholson, Maura J; Scialabba, Lori L; Renaud, Tracy L
Subject: RAIO's most time sensitive issues for Executive Order Implementation

Jessica,

Attached please find a preliminary list of implementation issues for RAIO. These are ones that are most time sensitive, in that we need to get guidance out to the field as soon as possible – by Sunday evening, if possible.

This does not include the most urgent issue regarding the list of individuals State is requesting to exempt so they can travel, which is being worked separately.

Let me know if you have questions. Also including content in the message in case that is helpful for those on phones.

Thanks,

Joanna

RAIO Time Sensitive Questions on the Executive Order

Refugee Processing – what can continue?

For reference - current circuit rides:

1. Cape Town, South Africa (total number of cases is 166) – deployed through February 3:
 - a. 92% nationality is Somali – Claims are mostly based on religious beliefs (different interpretations of Islam than Al Shabaab)
 - b. 8% nationality is Democratic Republic of Congo – Claims are nationality claims based on tribe.
2. Indonesia (total number of cases is 130) – deployed through February 10:
 - a. 95% nationality is Burmese – religious minority Rohingya population
 - b. 5% nationality is Afghan – No claim info available
3. Vienna (RAD CR – one officer is currently onsite processing cases) – deployed through February 24:
 - a. 100% from Iran – claims are religious persecution as either Assyrian/Armenian Christians or Bahai
 - b. Note that these cases must obtain special visas to enter Austria and can only remain in Vienna for a very limited amount of time.

Urgent time-sensitive questions (need answers by Sunday evening, if possible):

1. Can the officer in Vienna resume interview on Monday? In light of the "notwithstanding" language at Sec. 5(e), we propose that he continue w/interviews as planned.

In particular, that section says that the USRAP can use discretion to admit refugees during the 120-day suspension "when admitting the person would enable the United States to conform its conduct to a preexisting international agreement..." We have such an agreement w/Austria. What we are proposing is not actually ADMISSIONS, however, but continuing w/RAD interviews, which seems in keeping with the intent and spirit of this provision. Since these applicants are Iranian religious minorities, we believe that their future admission would need to be assessed under the 90-day rule in Sec. 3.

2. Can we continue interviewing in Indonesia? We recommend that we continue, at least for the Rohingya population. PRM's guidance to RSC's is to continue processing around the world and just to cancel travel for the affected population, and we are working with them on determining best course of action for this caseload.
3. Should we continue interviews in South Africa? We think it would not be the best use of resources to continue to interview this population and intend to move forward to curtail those interviews. We are consulting with PRM.
4. Should we continue interviews in Moscow? We have Lautenberg interviews scheduled in Moscow all week. This includes P1s and Lautenberg (largely Ukrainian religious minorities traveling in from the Ukraine for their interviews). Some of the P-1s travel in from remote areas. Our proposed plan:

Where someone may already be in transit, we intend to continue with the interview if the individual was a Lautenberg or other religious minority, even though we are all still awaiting guidance on how the religious minority exception may be defined. For those other P1s, we intend to collect prints and inform them of the suspension, but not conduct an interview. We don't want to continue interviewing if we may have to do reinterviews later based on a new or amended approach to processing.

5. We believe we have P-1s also scheduled in New Delhi. Would follow same approach as above.

Less Urgent:

6. Should we resume planning scheduling CR for Nauru (originally planned for Feb. 5-6, but suspended). We believe this falls under the "preexisting international agreement" provision is the USG agreement w/Australia concerning Nauru. State believes that having visible evidence of progress is important to both the Australian gov't and to the refugees, whose hopelessness has led to violence, self-harm, non-compliance, etc.

Asylum Processing:

1. Does the suspension apply to processing affirmative asylum applications filed by individuals from the countries on the list?
 - We have notified field leadership that they should arrange to stop any decision-issuance to asylum applicants from the listed countries until they are instructed otherwise.
 - We have told them to review their upcoming schedules and prepare to cancel any interviews for nationals from the listed countries. They were told not to actually begin cancelling the interviews until they received further guidance from HQ.

Refugee Travel Documents:

Should USCIS continue to issue refugee travel documents (domestically and abroad) to those not on the list? IO currently has a number of pending requests for refugee documents and the vast majority are Iraqi and the individuals are currently in Iraq. Will issue guidance to suspend processing those on the list, but what about the others?

TRIG:

Should we tell staff to hold off on approving cases for existing TRIG exemptions while all exemptions are being reviewed for possible rescission?

I-730's Processed Abroad:

1. Can USCIS continue to process following-to-join (I-730) applications for asylee family members from countries not on the list (e.g., China)? State's guidance to consular officers is to continue processing those. We have not issued any yet.
2. If we issued a travel document to a refugee FTJ or an asylee FTJ from one of the 7 countries before the 1/27/17 E.O. and the beneficiary hasn't traveled yet, should we try to get the travel document or packet back?

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Monica, Donald J

From: Nicholson, Maura J
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 8:28 AM
To: Monica, Donald J; Langlois, Joseph E; Johnson, Bobbie L; Spalter, Brian M; Lassen, Brett H; Fatica, Erin K
Cc: Kliska, Jennifer R
Subject: RE: circuit ride update

Just new trips scheduled to deploy on or before Feb 15. We are staying the course at present on already deployed CRs.

From: Monica, Donald J
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 8:16:59 PM
To: Nicholson, Maura J; Langlois, Joseph E; Johnson, Bobbie L; Spalter, Brian M; Lassen, Brett H; Fatica, Erin K
Cc: Kliska, Jennifer R
Subject: RE: circuit ride update

Re: cancelling CRs. Does that include terminating CRs in currently in process (Indonesia for APAC), or just new trips?

From: Nicholson, Maura J
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 6:59 AM
To: Langlois, Joseph E; Johnson, Bobbie L; Monica, Donald J; Spalter, Brian M; Lassen, Brett H; Fatica, Erin K
Cc: Kliska, Jennifer R
Subject: RE: circuit ride update

All,

State/PRM, RAD, and IO spoke this evening to coordinate and determine next steps with respect to refugee processing. Latest we've heard is that the EO will be signed tomorrow, so we still don't have final language which will be key in determining handling of on-going CRs in Cape Town and Indonesia (RAD also has a circuit rider interviewing Lautenbergs in Vienna now), and refugee processing in our field offices. The final EO language will also help inform processing of Lautenbergs in MOS, and other religious minorities (including Rohingya in Indonesia). We need to continue to interview refugee cases until told otherwise.

In the meantime, though, we are cancelling all CRs scheduled to depart between now and February 15, consistent with RAD. This includes the fingerprinting CR to Malta that departs Monday. PRM has notified their RSCs of these cancellations.

RAD, IO and PRM will have a standing daily meeting for the foreseeable future to coordinate, as needed.

More info and guidance to follow when available. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Maura

From: Nicholson, Maura J
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 6:19 PM

Subject: FW: circuit ride update

All,

FYI that RAD is suspending CRs through February 15 in light of the Executive Order that is expected tomorrow and which will affect refugee processing. We will be awaiting implementing guidance from DHS once the order is signed and can then assess what action we may need to take on our 2 currently deployed CRs and those scheduled for departure in February. We'll also then get a sense of how our I-730 caseloads will be affected.

I'm sure you've seen drafts online of the executive order as well as much press about what's likely coming, but we don't know what, if anything, of what's been reported may get changed in the final hours before the EO is signed.

FYI,

Maura

From: Stone, Mary M
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 4:17 PM
To: Ruppel, Joanna; Nicholson, Maura J
Subject: FW: circuit ride update

From: Strack, Barbara L
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 4:03:19 PM
To: RAIO - Refugee1
Subject: FW: circuit ride update

From: Strack, Barbara L
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 3:37:28 PM
To: Strack, Barbara L
Subject: circuit ride update

Dear RAD staff – I know that many of you have seen draft copies of an Executive Order related to the USRAP that is expected to be finalized and signed tomorrow. In light of this anticipated announcement, we've determined that it would be prudent to suspend circuit rides that are scheduled to depart between now and February 15.

We are also suspending the remaining PDBs planned for this week.

For our TDYers who are here in DC, we will be sharing information as soon as possible about travel arrangements for returning to home offices.

I hope to share more information tomorrow.

Barbara

Monica, Donald J

From: Nicholson, Maura J
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 6:33 AM
To: Langlois, Joseph E; Johnson, Bobbie L; Monica, Donald J; Spalter, Brian M; Lassen, Brett H; Fatica, Erin K
Cc: Kliska, Jennifer R
Subject: RE: circuit ride update

All,

This evening, the EO affecting refugee processing was signed, however we have not yet seen the final text. We believe we will need to stop processing refugees on Monday – I should know more and will confirm later this weekend. DHS is aware of our 2 on-going CRs as well as RAD's in Vienna, and I hope to soon let you know whether we'll need to have our travelers curtail. We are also seeking guidance from DHS on Lautenberg processing in MOS and whether that will be able to continue.

In the meantime, please have your offices cancel all travel document pick-ups for I-730s (both refugee and asylee FTJs) for the next week. That will give us some time to get direction from DHS on the impact that today's EO will have on I-730 processing. We will also coordinate with State early next week on steps taken with respect to that caseload.

It will take some time to get the DHS implementing guidance for the EO, so I appreciate your patience while we sort out precisely what the impact of the EO will be. I will be sure to share any information with you as I can – and please do not hesitate to pose questions so that I can ensure we get the answers you need.

Thanks,

Maura

From: Nicholson, Maura J
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 6:59 PM
To: Langlois, Joseph E; Johnson, Bobbie L; Monica, Donald J; Spalter, Brian M; Lassen, Brett H; Fatica, Erin K
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RAD, IO and PRM will have a standing daily meeting for the foreseeable future to coordinate, as needed.

Thanks,

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Barbara

Monica, Donald J

From: Sanders, Gregory L
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 11:00 AM
To: Monica, Donald J; APAC FOD
Subject: RE: circuit ride update

Receipt acknowledged. We await further instructions on current INDO CR. I will notify IRC of BKK urban interview cancellations, etc.

Gregory L. Sanders
Bangkok Field Office Director, APAC

Office: (b)(6)

From: Monica, Donald J
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 10:07 AM
To: APAC FOD
Subject: FW: circuit ride update

FODs:

Please confirm receipt of this message when you read it.

See below. This relates to the refugee Executive Order. As noted, it was signed, but HQ/IO has not yet seen it. Of immediate priority is that we are cancelling both refugee and I-730 interviews (both refugee and asylee FTJ), as well as the pick of travel packets by I-730 applicants. While Maura's email mentions cancelling I-730 travel package pickups, but does not mention cancelling interviews, in a separate reply to an inquiry from EMEA she indicates that for now interviews should also be cancelled.

More to follow as info becomes available.

Don

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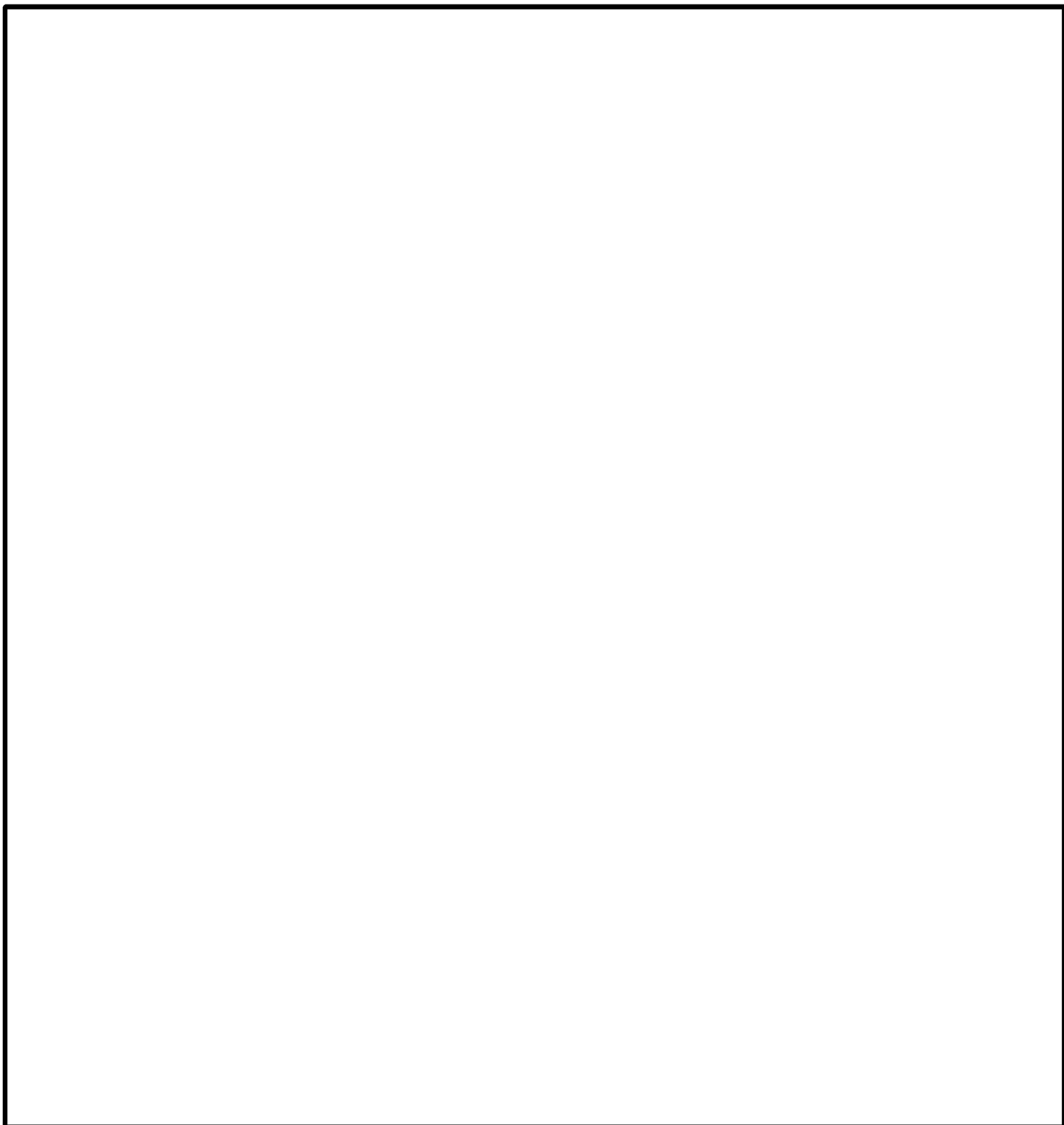
Interim Guidance for International Operations in Response to Executive Order Signed January 27, 2017

Note: We will be creating a case tag in CAMINO to identify all cases on hold per this executive order.

1. Refugee-Related Processing

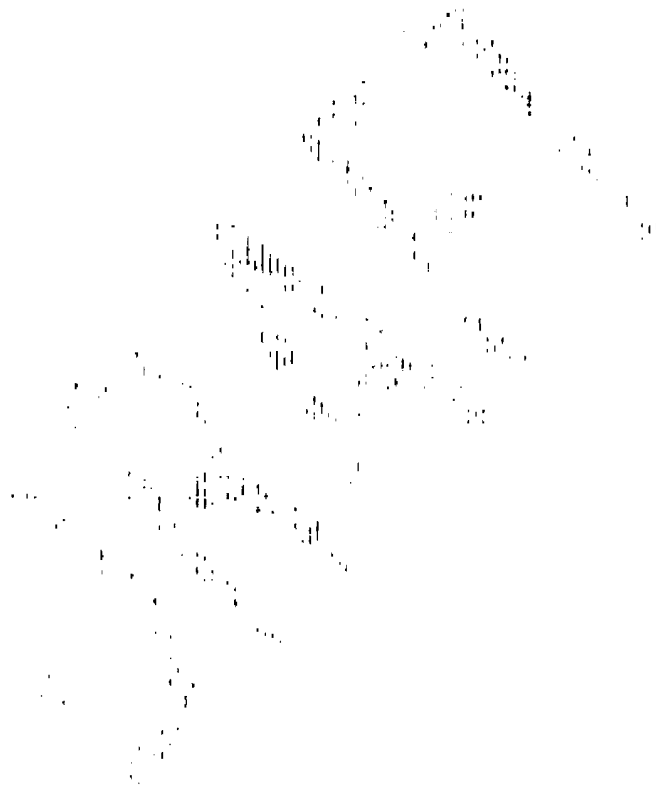
(b)(5)

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Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 7:12 AM
To: Monica, Donald J; Langlois, Joseph E; Johnson, Bobbie L
Cc: Kliska, Jennifer R
Subject: RE: CRs
Attachments: FW: Message on refugee admissions and operations

Hi Don,

As you saw from my other email, there is no corporate decision on the CRs yet. We are going to continue to stay the course and will be revisiting the CR in Cape Town and Indonesia on Monday.

In the meantime, for the Indonesia CR, I've raised with PRM the possibility of prioritizing interviews of Rohingya cases. Margaret Burkhardt will help to coordinate this and will check to see if this is possible without causing undue anxiety among the other applicants. If you or Greg can reach out to her to coordinate, that would be great.

On a separate note, I'm attaching here for your awareness a message PRM sent to its RSCs. Note the last line:

In the meantime, RSCs should not/cancel any other processing activities (short of traveling scheduling and departure) until further guidance is issued from PRM.

PRM is aware of what we are proposing as guidance for MOS, as well as what's happening with our CRs, so I think we are in synch.

Don, do you have refugee interviews scheduled this week in NDI?

Maura

From: Monica, Donald J
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 6:08 PM
To: Nicholson, Maura J
Subject: CRs

Just curious. Were there any further discussions today (your time) regarding interviewing on Monday. If not, any corporate decision made on Sunday won't be delivered until Monday morning Indonesia time. Then we'll have to make it up as we go along.

Right now there's no plan to stop interviewing on Monday unless that instruction comes from HQ.

Monica, Donald J

From: Nicholson, Maura J
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:04 AM
To: RAIO - Oversea Managers
Cc: Ruppel, Joanna; Hadary, Jonah J; Kwan, Stephanie M; Kliska, Jennifer R
Subject: FW: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY JOHN KELLY ON THE ENTRY OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

Field managers,

I wanted to make you aware of the statement made by Secretary Kelly earlier today with respect to LPRs re-entering the United States. Consistent with S1's directive, all field offices should continue to process I-131A applications filed by LPRs overseas, regardless of the nationality of the applicant. To confirm, I-131As filed by LPRs who are nationals or dual nationals of the 7 countries outlined in the Executive Order signed on January 27 (Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen), should continue to be adjudicated and travel documents issued per existing guidance.

Additional guidance related to the issuance of that E.O. will be forthcoming. Thanks for your patience – I know you have a number of questions, and we will work as quickly as we can with others in USCIS and the Department to clarify them.

Thanks,

Maura

From: Renaud, Tracy L
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 3:24:02 PM
To: Ruppel, Joanna; Renaud, Daniel M; Neufeld, Donald W
Subject: FW: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY JOHN KELLY ON THE ENTRY OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

FYI

Tracy L. Renaud
Acting Deputy Director
US Citizenship & Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security

 (b)(6)

From: Alfonso, Angelica M
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 6:19:32 PM
To: Scialabba, Lori L; Renaud, Tracy L; Atkinson, Ronald A; Carter, Jeffrey T (Jeff); Hatchett, Dolline L; Groom, Molly M; Melero, Mariela
Subject: FW: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY JOHN KELLY ON THE ENTRY OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

From: DHS Press Office

Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:15:58 PM

To: Alfonso, Angelica M

Subject: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY JOHN KELLY ON THE ENTRY OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES



Press Office
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Press Release

January 29, 2017

Contact: DHS Press Office, 202-282-8010

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY JOHN KELLY ON THE ENTRY OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON – In applying the provisions of the president's executive order, I hereby deem the entry of lawful permanent residents to be in the national interest.

Accordingly, absent the receipt of significant derogatory information indicating a serious threat to public safety and welfare, lawful permanent resident status will be a dispositive factor in our case-by-case determinations.

###

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Office of Public Affairs · 202-282-8010 · mediainquiry@hq.dhs.gov



U.S. Department of Homeland Security · Washington, DC 20016

Monica, Donald J

From: Nicholson, Maura J
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:58 AM
To: Monica, Donald J; Spalter, Brian M; Langlois, Joseph E; Johnson, Bobbie L; Fatica, Erin K; Lassen, Brett H
Cc: Ruppel, Joanna; Kliska, Jennifer R
Subject: Interim Guidance on Executive Order Signed January 27
Attachments: 2017protectingtheNationfromTerroristEntryintotheUnitedStates.eo.rel.docx; FW: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY JOHN KELLY ON THE ENTRY OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

Importance: High

DDs/DDDs,

I realize that you have many questions about the Executive Order and appreciate that you have been sending them forward. Please continue to do so. Unfortunately, things remain in flux and we do not have cleared guidance we can provide other than the following for the next few days or less (if we get additional guidance sooner):

- Do not issue any final approvals for any I-730 refugee following to join cases. Further guidance will be coming about how to update CAMINO, etc.
- Do not issue any final approvals for any other application, including I-730 asylee following to join adjudication and travel eligibility cases for nationals or dual nationals of the 7 countries referenced in the Executive Order (Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen), with the exception of I-131As (see attached email). You can approve I-131As for all applicants following existing guidance, which requires that you flag for HQ any with serious derogatory information for possible discretionary denials. Further guidance will be coming.
- If you have refugee cases scheduled for Monday or Tuesday of this week, please cancel them if there is sufficient time to do so. If there is not sufficient time to cancel, then please collect the applicant's biometrics, review his or her bio-data for accuracy and completeness, and inform the applicant that he/she will be notified when the case is able to proceed in the future.

Right now, we are staying the course on the refugee CR in Indonesia; the team on the ground can continue interviewing and processing the cases there until further notice.

The above guidance is only a stop-gap to assist in addressing the most urgent needs for the next couple of days when more detailed cleared guidance can be issued. Also, for awareness, OCOMM is working on talking points and FAQs related to the Executive Order, which should be issued via USCIS Broadcast soon.

I appreciate the difficulty of being on the front line and getting inquiries from the public and others for which we don't yet have complete answers. Many people throughout the Agency and Department are working hard to sort out the impact of the E.O. on the Agency, and I will continue to keep you posted.

Thank you for your continued patience as we navigate the current policy changes.

Maura

Maura J. Nicholson
Deputy Chief, International Operations Division



(b)(6)

Monica, Donald J

From: Spalter, Brian M
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 6:59 AM
To: Nicholson, Maura J
Cc: Monica, Donald J
Subject: FW: Executive Order: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES - Field Operations Instructions

Hi Maura,

Just a brief follow up regarding this issue which came up on our call last evening, below is the email that went out to FOD regarding N-400 processing.

Regards,
Brian

From: Renaud, Daniel M
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 2:30 AM
To: Cowan, Robert M; Looney, Robert V; Muzyka, Carolyn L; Pietropaoli, Lori A; Redman, Kathy A; Gallagher, Kevin E; Goodwin, Shelley M; Robinson, Terri A; Tierney, Therese A; Woo, Ellen Y; FOD-DDs-DDDs-COS; FOD-FODs
Cc: Dominguez, Kathleen P; Upchurch, Evelyn M; Kendrick, Rose M; Quimby, Christopher M (Chris); Rinehart, Brett R; Sapko, Jeffrey M; Spencer, Julie C; Young, Claudia F; Valverde, Michael; Neufeld, Donald W; Kvortek, Lisette E; Farnam, Julie E; Slattery, Shannon E; Renaud, Tracy L; Davidson, Andrew J; Scialabba, Lori L
Subject: RE: Executive Order: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES - Field Operations Instructions

Field Offices may continue to adjudicate N-400 and N-600 applications and administer the oath of citizenship for approved candidates who remain eligible. This message lifts the hold on citizenship applications and petitions.

Daniel M. Renaud
Associate Director | Field Operations Directorate
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security

From: Renaud, Daniel M
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 11:12:16 AM
To: Cowan, Robert M; Looney, Robert V; Muzyka, Carolyn L; Pietropaoli, Lori A; Redman, Kathy A; Gallagher, Kevin E; Goodwin, Shelley M; Robinson, Terri A; Tierney, Therese A; Woo, Ellen Y; FOD-DDs-DDDs-COS; FOD-FODs
Cc: Dominguez, Kathleen P; Upchurch, Evelyn M; Kendrick, Rose M; Quimby, Christopher M (Chris); Rinehart, Brett R; Sapko, Jeffrey M; Spencer, Julie C; Young, Claudia F; Valverde, Michael; Neufeld, Donald W; Kvortek, Lisette E; Farnam, Julie E; Slattery, Shannon E; Renaud, Tracy L; Davidson, Andrew J; Scialabba, Lori L
Subject: Executive Order: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES - Field Operations Instructions

On January 27, 2017, the President signed an Executive Order that, in part, relates to the suspension of processing of certain immigration benefits. Section 3(c) of the Executive Order invokes sections 212(f) and

Effectively immediately and until additional guidance is received, you may not take final action on any petition or application where the applicant is a citizen or national of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, and Libya. Field offices may interview applicants for adjustment of status and other benefits according to current processing guidance and may process petitions and applications for individuals from these countries up to the point where a decision would be made. At that point, cases shall be placed on hold until further notice and will be shelved with specific NETS codes which will be provided through the Regional Offices. Offices are not permitted make any final decision on affected cases to include approval, denial, withdrawal, or revocation.

Please look for additional guidance later this weekend on how to process naturalization applicants from one of the seven countries listed above who are currently scheduled for oath ceremony or whose N-400s have been approved and they are pending scheduling of oath ceremony.

We expect to issue more detailed guidance and procedures as needed in the coming days. Questions or requests for additional clarification may be directed to the Regional Offices through your chain of command.

Daniel M. Renaud
Associate Director | Field Operations Directorate
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Ruppel, Joanna
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2017 2:02 PM
To: RAIO - ALL1
Subject: Executive Order and Refugee Processing

RAIO Colleagues,

As you know, last week we made the decision to temporarily suspend departures for both the Refugee Affairs Division (RAD) and International Operations (IO) circuit rides until February 15. We also temporarily suspended refugee interviews at all international field offices. Following further consultations with the Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), we have jointly decided that the remaining 2nd quarter circuit ride and USCIS international field office interview schedule will be completely revised. PRM is instructing the Refugee Support Centers to cancel this quarter's USCIS circuit rides and field office interviews at this time.

RAIO will be working with PRM in coming weeks and months to discuss when circuit rides and field office interviews will resume and to identify any interviews that will be needed to reach this year's revised goal of 50,000 admissions, as well as the FY18 ceiling, which has not yet been determined. At this time, we do not have any information to share on 3rd and 4th quarter circuit rides or field office processing, but we will continue to share additional information as it becomes available.

I would like to encourage you to review the RAIO ECN site that we have begun building to share information with you, as well as to provide a space for questions and collaboration:

2017 Executive Orders

You will find there a place where you may submit questions anonymously. Or, you can identify yourself in case we want to get back to you with any follow up questions to clarify your question. While the site tracks number of "responses," that actually means number of questions. It may take a bit of time, but once we have a number of questions, we will work on posting the questions and responses. Also, something to watch for in the coming weeks is that we will be seeking your views on certain implementation issues through the feedback section of that ECN site (such as additional information it would be helpful to know when processing a benefit request).

Thank you for your support, flexibility and patience.

Joanna

Joanna Ruppel
Acting Associate Director
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

 (b)(6)

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Ruppel, Joanna
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 11:13 AM
To: RAIO - ALL1
Subject: Executive Order Updates and Refugee Processing

RAIO Colleagues,

As stated in the USCIS Broadcast, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has suspended any and all actions implementing the affected sections of the Executive Order entitled, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" (January 27, 2017) (these affected sections are Sections 3(c), Section 5(a), Section 5(b), Section 5 (c) and Section 5 (e) to the extent that it purports to prioritize refugee claims of certain religious minorities).

USCIS has resumed approving refugee cases that are otherwise eligible for refugee resettlement. The travel schedule of these approved cases will be determined by the Department of State so as not to exceed the refugee ceiling set by the current Administration. At this time, USCIS generally will not be regularly conducting refugee interviews in international field offices, or deploying additional circuit rides this quarter other than select, previously scheduled circuit rides. USCIS will coordinate other possible interviews, including urgent humanitarian protection cases, at the request of the Department of State. The previously organized trainings for credible fear will move forward as scheduled.

USCIS, including RAIO headquarters staff, is participating in intra and inter-agency working groups established to implement the Executive Order and field input will be sought as appropriate.

Many of you have expressed interest in learning more about the ongoing litigation relating to the Executive Order Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States. Oral arguments on whether or not to lift the temporary restraining order took place yesterday before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. You can listen to a recording of the oral arguments and find information about the litigation on the 9th Circuit's website:

https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/content/view.php?pk_id=0000000860

Information about the Executive Orders that impact USCIS can be found on USCIS Connect:

<http://connect.uscis.dhs.gov/org/CL/Pages/Presidential-Actions.aspx>

And information more specific to RAIO can be found on the RAIO ECN (this site is still a work in process):

<http://ecn.uscis.dhs.gov/team/fod/ImplementEO/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Finally, I would like to apologize for confusion that arose when all RAIO staff were scheduled for a Town Hall. That was based on a miscommunication error on my part. I had requested an all hands meeting for "Directorate staff," meaning the RAIO Program Chiefs and their staff. In my capacity as acting A/D for RAIO, I plan on holding monthly meetings with my team, just as Maura and I hold monthly all hands meetings with IO HQ staff. This was understood to mean all RAIO staff. Then the cancelation led to some rumors of some other motive. It was pure miscommunication. I am trying hard to get ahead of all rumors and stop them as soon as I hear them. There also has been a bit of miscommunication about a potential Town Hall with Lori Scialabba. We are working to clarify plans with the front office and will provide more info shortly. Things are moving fast and furious here at HQ, so I appreciate everyone's patience when communication mistakes are made. We are truly acting with the best of intentions.

Joanna

Joanna Ruppel
Acting Associate Director
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate



(b)(6)

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Gulati, Sonia
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 3:11 PM
To: Pehlivan, Serra; Muirragui, Emily R; Loizeaux, Andrew B (Drew); Salber, Matthew C; Patterson, Sean A; Bhalla, Amy D; Landro, Leia M; Kazimierczak, Marta K; Djaboury, Jacob G; Jones, Kelly A; Casey, Kathryn M; Kahler, Jacqueline E; McCleary, Kashina A; Johnson, Ann; Young, Cheronda K (CTR); Pfleuger, Brett E
Cc: Anderson, Ross S
Subject: Moving forward on CR postponements
Importance: High

Desk Officers,

Per Barbara's email, you should start working on canceling all arrangements for the CRs, including plane reservations, hotel reservations, etc. Ross will be notifying all TDYers and their Directors of the postponement, and that they will be responsible for canceling any layover reservations/plans themselves. I have informed Miya and she will be informing the rest of the Travel Office, and CI Travel, so that everyone has the heads up about the influx of calls and cancelations. Once Ross has notified travelers, you can send out an email to all team members with any further instructions, as needed.

For anyone that has TDYers in DC now for PDB, they should make arrangements to travel home tomorrow, which will be the official travel day. Should there be any issues with that, they can contact Ross.

PRM will notify their own staff, domestically and internationally, including RSCs and UNHCR. You should also notify any non-DOS/PRM Embassy Partners that you have worked directly with this quarter.

Support Staff, please reach out to the Desk Officers that you are working with so that you can determine how to best assist them in making all of these changes.

I think that is it for now. Please let me know if you can think of any other issues or concerns.

I know this is a challenging time and we really appreciate your efforts.

Hang in there!

Thanks,

Sonia

Sonia Gulati
Branch Chief, Regional Operations
Refugee Affairs Division (RAD)
DHS/IUSCIS/RAIO

(b)(6)

From: Strack, Barbara L
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 4:03 PM
To: RAIO - Refugee1
Subject: FW: circuit ride update

From: Strack, Barbara L
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 3:37:28 PM
To: Strack, Barbara L
Subject: circuit ride update

Dear RAD staff – I know that many of you have seen draft copies of an Executive Order related to the USRAP that is expected to be finalized and signed tomorrow. In light of this anticipated announcement, we've determined that it would be prudent to suspend circuit rides that are scheduled to depart between now and February 15.

We are also suspending the remaining PDBs planned for this week.

For our TDYers who are here in DC, we will be sharing information as soon as possible about travel arrangements for returning to home offices.

I hope to share more information tomorrow.

Barbara

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Gulati, Sonia
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 12:57 PM
To: Pehlivan, Serra; Loizeaux, Andrew B (Drew); Muirragui, Emily R; Kazimierczak, Marta K; Landro, Leia M; Bhalla, Amy D; Patterson, Sean A; Salber, Matthew C; Jones, Kelly A; Djaboury, Jacob G; Casey, Kathryn M; McCleary, Kashina A; Kahler, Jacqueline E
Subject: Rumors on changes in USRAP by new administration

All,

I wanted to touch base as I have received several inquiries on ROs being informed of USRAP policy changes before HQ, etc. I understand that there are rumors around about reductions in admissions goals/ceiling, the impact on Syrians, etc. Please know that we do not have any information at this point and as soon as we hear anything, we will pass it along. I know the waiting is challenging, and we are all anxiously awaiting hearing any news on the subject. I would like to ask that you avoid spreading the rumors, rushing to conclusions, and speculating -- there is no official order or direction yet.

Thanks for all of your hard work, especially during these weeks while preparing everyone to travel—and for some of you, preparing to travel yourselves.

Sonia

Sonia Gulati
Branch Chief, Regional Operations
Refugee Affairs Division (RAD)
DHS/USCIS/RAIO



(b)(6)

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Gulati, Sonia
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 11:26 AM
To: McPherson, Richard C
Subject: RAD travels
Attachments: FW: circuit ride update

Hi Richard, I hope you are doing well.

I wanted to update you on the status of RAD Circuit Rides. They are currently suspended between now and Feb 15th— see Barbara's email attached. For your awareness, and as I understand it, International Operations has not yet made a decision on their Circuit Rides.

I will keep you informed of any other changes.

As always, thanks for your support.

Sonia

Sonia Gulati
Branch Chief, Regional Operations
Refugee Affairs Division (RAD)
DHS/USCIS/BAIO



(b)(6)

Q2 Breakdown of Nationalities and Religions

MIDDLE EAST/EUROPE

Jordan team A -canceled						
*Team B scheduled for Q2/Q3, which translates into approx 535 addit'l cases (specifics unknown)						
Nationality	Projected Totals	Percentage		Religion	Projected Totals	Percentage
Iraq	280	23%		Christian	75	6%
Somalia	13	1%		Druze	1	0%
Sudan	35	3%		Muslim	1107	93%
Syria	867	73%		Sabeans-Mandean	10	1%
Total	1194				1194	

Egypt -canceled						
Nationality	Projected Totals	Percentage		Religion	Projected Totals	Percentage
Iraq	88	9%		Christian	214	22%
Eritria	13	1%		Muslim	736	77%
Ethiopia	18	2%		Sabeans-Mandean	2	0%
Somalia	23	2%		Agnostic	2	0%
South Sudan	37	4%				
Sudan	280	29%				
Syria	494	52%				
Total	953				953	

Lebanon -canceled						
Nationality	Projected Totals	Percentage		Religion	Projected Totals	Percentage
Iraq	14	5%		Christian	139	48%
South Sudan	2	1%		Druze	2	1%
Sudan	9	3%		Muslim	151	52%
Syria	267	91%				
Total	292				292	

BAGHDAD-canceled

Nationality	Projected totals	Percentage		Religion	Projected Totals	Percentage
Iraqi	1560.5	98%		Muslim	1371.3	86%
Palestinian	22.8	1.4%		Christian	92.9	7.2%
Syrian	1.6	0.1%		Yazidi	114	5.8%
				Atheist	1.6	0.1%
				Kaaka'i	3.2	0.2%
				No religion	1.6	0.1%
Total	1,585			Total	1,585	

ERBIL-not yet canceled

Nationality	Projected totals	Percentage		Religion	Projected Totals	Percentage
Iraqi	41	36%		Muslims	99	88%
				Christians	n/a	
Syrian	71	63%		Yazidi	13	11.6%
				Atheist	n/a	
				Kaaka'i	n/a	
				No religion	n/a	
Total	130			Total	130	

Turkey -canceled						
Nationality	Projected totals	Percentage		Religion	Projected Totals	Percentage
Afghanistan	44	3.80%		Christians	271	23.50%
Eritrea	1	0.10%		Muslims	723	62.80%
Iran	355	30.80%		No religion	94	8.20%
Iraq	611	53%		Atheist	7	0.63%
Palestine	1	0.10%		Bahai	43	3.70%
Somalia	7	0.63%		Jehovah Witness	1	0.10%
Sudan	1	0.10%		Kakai	5	0.40%
Syria	131	11.40%		Zoroastrians	1	0.10%
				Yazidi	1	0.10%
				Other	6	0.50%
Total	1151					

Austria Team A -ongoing						
Nationality	Projected Totals	Percentage		Religion	Projected Totals	Percentage
Iran	160	100%		Christian	141	88.40%
				Jewish	3	1.60%
				Bahai	0	
				Zoroastrian	16	10%
Total	160					

Austria Team B –not yet canceled						
Nationality	Projected Totals	Percentage		Religion	Projected Totals	Percentage
Iran	290	100%		Christian	256	88.40%
				Jewish	5	1.60%
				Bahai	0	
				Zoroastrian	29	10%
Total	290					

Israel -canceled						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Eritrea	76	76%		Christian	86	86%
Sudan	21	21%		Muslim	14	14%
Ethiopia	2	2%				
Iraq	1	1%				
Total	100					

LATIN AMERICA

El Salvador Team A -canceled

Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
El Salvador	1177	100%		Christian	1177	100%

Honduras -canceled

Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Honduras	249	100%		Christian	249	100%

Guatemala -canceled

Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Guatemala	49	100%		Christian	49	100%

Ecuador -canceled

Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Ecuador	88	100%		Christian	88	100%

Trinidad -not yet canceled

Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Syria	5	45%		Christian	5	100%
Pakistan	1	8.5%		Muslim	1	100%
Bangladesh	1	8.5%		Buddhist	1	100%
Cuba	1	8.5%		Christian	1	100%
Colombia	1	8.5%		Christian	1	100%
Jamaica	2	21%		Christian	2	100%

El Salvador Team B- not yet canceled

Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
El Salvador	1177	100%		Christian	1177	100%

ASIA

Nauru --will be rescheduled

Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage	Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Afghan	17	11%	Muslim	93	63%
Bangladesh	3	2%	Muslim-Christian Converts (Iranians)	55	37%
Burma	21	14%			
Iran	55	37%			
Somali	18	12%			
Pakistani	6	4%			
Sri Lankan	14	9%			
Iraq	8	5%			
Lebanon	5	3%			
Palestine	1	1%			

Nepal --canceled

Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage	Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Bhutan	270	100	Muslim	0	0%
			Hindu/Buddhist*		
			Christian*		
Total	270	100		270	100

Malaysia (previously IO) -canceled

Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage	Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Iraq	12	35%	Muslim	33	97%
Somalia	3	9%	Christian	1	3%
Sudan	1	2%			
Iran	4	12%			
Syria	2	5%			
Pakistani	8	24%			
Sri Lankan	2	5%			
Afghan	1	2%			
Lebanese	1	2%			
Total	34			34	

Malaysia (RAD caseload) -canceled						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Burma	435	100%		Muslim (Rohingya)	208*	48%
				Christian or Buddhist	227	52
Total	435				435	

*Note this is an estimate. RSC had not scheduled the full CR but estimated that Rohingya would be approximately 48% of the caseload for Q2.

AFRICA

Burundi -canceled						
<u>Nationality</u>	# of Cases	Percentage		<u>Religion</u>	# of Cases	Percentage
Congolese	258	100%		Protestant	126	49%
				Pentecostal	44	17%
				Catholic	41	16%
				Muslim	24	9%
				Methodist	17	7%
				Jehovah's Witness	2	< 1%
				Christian	2	< 1%
				7th Day Adventist	1	< 1%
				Other	1	< 1%

Chad -canceled						
<u>Nationality</u>	# of Cases	Percentage		<u>Religion</u>	# of Cases	Percentage
Sudanese:	419	67%		Muslim:	533	85%
CAR:	204	33%		Catholic:	36	6%
Total:	623			Protestant:	21	3%
				Baptist:	20	3%
				Christian:	10	2%
				Evangelical:	1	<1%
				Pentecostal:	1	<1%

Ethiopia -canceled						
<u>Nationality</u>	# of Cases	Percentage		<u>Religion</u>	# of Cases	Percentage
Somali:	752	99%		Muslim:	752	99%
South Sudanese	1	<1%		Christian	1	>1%
Total:	753					

Kenya -canceled						
<u>Nationality</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>		<u>Religion</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Somali	626	76%		Muslim:	673	82%
Congolese	82	10%		Christian:	83	10%
Ethiopian	65	0.08		Protestant:	23	3%
Ugandan	20	0.02		Pentacostal:	14	2%
South Sudanese	15	0.02		Catholic:	12	1%
Eritrean	5	<1%		Orthodox:	10	0.01
Kenyan (V93)	4	<1%		Baptist:	2	<1%
Burundian	3	<1%		Methodist:	2	<1%
Rwandan	3	<1%		Lutheran:	1	<1%
Total	823			Evangelican:	1	<1%
				7th Day Adventist:	1	<1%

Uganda -canceled						
<u>Nationality</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>		<u>Religion</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Congolese:	575	86%		Protestant:	164	25%
Somali:	79	12%		Pentecostal	151	23%
South Sudanese:	5	<1%		Muslim:	106	16%
Burundian:	3	<1%		Catholic	102	15%
Ethiopian:	2	<1%		7th Day Adventist	49	7%
Eritrean:	2	<1%		Baptist	49	7%
Sudanese:	1	<1%		Jehovah's Witness	21	3%
Egyptian:	1	<1%		Christian	19	3%
Total:	668			Methodist:	3	<1%
				Orthodox	2	<1%
				Other	2	<1%
				Coptic:	1	<1%

PROJECTIONS FOR Africa Q2 TRIPS not yet canceled

Burundi Team 2 Fy17 Q2						
<u>Nationality</u>	# of Cases	Percentage		<u>Religion</u>	# of Cases	Percentage
Congolese	279	100%		Protestant:	~137	~49%
				Pentecostal:	~47	~17%
				Catholic:	~45	~16%
				Muslim:	~25	~9%
				Methodist:	~20	~7%
				Jehovah's Witness		~<1%
				Christian:		~<1%
				7th Day Adventist		~<1%
				Other:		~<1%

Ethiopia Team 2 Fy17 Q2						
<u>Nationality</u>	# of Cases	Percentage		<u>Religion</u>	# of Cases	Percentage
Somali	256	100%		Muslim:	~256	~100%

Kenya Team 2 Fy17 Q2						
<u>Nationality</u>	# of Cases	Percentage		<u>Religion</u>	# of Cases	Percentage
Somali	~410	~76%		Muslim:	~442	~82%
Congolese	~54	~10%		Christian:	~54	~10%
Ethiopian	~43	~8%		Protestant:	~16	~3%
Ugandan	~11	~2%		Pentacostal:	~11	~2%
South Sudanese	~11	~2%		Catholic:	~5	~1%
Eritrean		<1%		Orthodox:	~5	~1%
Kenyan (V93)		<1%		Baptist:		<1%
Burundian		<1%		Methodist:		<1%
Rwandan		<1%		Lutheran:		<1%
Total	539			Evangelican:		<1%
				7th Day Adventist:		<1%

Q2 Breakdown of Nationalities and Religions

Jordan FY17 Q2						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Iraq	200	23%		Christian	54	6%
Somalia	9	1%		Druze	1	0%
Sudan	25	3%		Muslim	792	93%
Syria	620	73%		Sabeans-Mandean	7	1%

Egypt FY17 Q2						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Iraq	54	9%		Christian	132	22%
Eritria	8	1%		Muslim	454	77%
Ethiopia	11	2%		Sabeans-Mandean	1	0%
Somalia	14	2%		Agnostic	1	0%
South Sudan	23	4%				
Sudan	173	29%				
Syria	305	52%				

Lebanon FY17 Q2						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Iraq	8	5%		Christian	77	48%
South Sudan	1	1%		Druze	1	1%
Sudan	5	3%		Muslim	84	52%
Syria	148	91%				

IRAQ FY17 Q2						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Iraq	334	96%		Muslim	293	84%
Palestinian	11	3%		Yazidi	42	12%
				Christian	10	2.8%

Austria FY17 Q2						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Iran	~350	100%		Christian	221	88.4%
				Jewish	4	1.6%
				Bahai	unknown	
				Zoroastrian	25	10%

Israel FY17 Q2						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Eritrea	76	76%		Christian	86	86%
Sudan	21	21%		Muslim	14	14%
Ethiopia	2	2%				
Iraq	1	1%				

Turkey Fy17 Q2						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Afghanistan	36	3.8%		Christians	222	23.5%
Eritrea	1	0.1%		Muslims	592	62.8%
Iran	290	30.8%		No religion	77	8.2%
Iraq	500	53%		Atheist	6	0.63%
Palestine	1	0.1%		Bahai	35	3.7%
Somalia	6	0.63%		Jehovah Witness	1	0.1%
Sudan	1	0.1%		Kakai	4	0.4%
Syria	107	11.4%		Zoroastrians	1	0.1%
Total	942			Yazidi	1	0.1%
				Other	3	0.3%

Note: the last two weeks of the CR has not yet been scheduled. Historically, ICMC does not schedule the last two weeks until the middle of the CR, to allow for expedites, unexpected issues, etc.

Trinidad Fy17 Q2						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Syria	5	45%		Christian	5	45%

Country Malaysia Fy17 Q2						
Nationality	# of Cases	Percentage		Religion	# of Cases	Percentage
Iraq	12	35%		Muslim	33	97%
Somalia	3	1%				
Sudan	1	1%				
Iran	4	1%				
Syria	2	1%				

Burundi Fy17 Q2						
<u>Nationality</u>	# of Cases	Percentage		<u>Religion</u>	# of Cases	Percentage
Congolese	258	100%		Protestant	126	49%
				Pentecostal	44	17%
				Catholic	41	16%
				Muslim	24	9%
				Methodist	17	7%
				Jehovah's Witness	2	< 1%
				Christian	2	< 1%
				7th Day Adventist	1	< 1%
				Other	1	< 1%

Chad Fy17 Q2						
<u>Nationality</u>	# of Cases	Percentage		<u>Religion</u>	# of Cases	Percentage
Sudanese	419	67%		Muslim:	533	85%
CAR	204	33%		Catholic:	36	6%
Total	623			Protestant:	26	4%
				Baptist:	20	3%
				Christian:	10	2%
				Evangelical:	1	<1%
				Pentecostal:	1	<1%

Ethiopia Fy17 Q2					
<u>Nationality</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Religion</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Somali	752	99%	Muslim:	752	99%
South Sudanese	1	<1%	Christian	1	>1%
Total	753				

Kenya Fy17 Q2					
<u>Nationality</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Religion</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Somali	626	76%	Muslim:	673	82%
Congolese	82	10%	Christian:	83	10%
Ethiopian	65	0.08	Protestant:	23	3%
Ugandan	20	0.02	Pentacostal:	14	2%
South Sudanese	15	0.02	Catholic:	12	1%
Eritrean	5	<1%	Orthodox:	10	0.01
Kenyan (V93)	4	<1%	Baptist:	2	<1%
Burundian	3	<1%	Methodist:	2	<1%
Rwandan	3	<1%	Lutheran:	1	<1%
Total	823		Evangelican:	1	<1%
			7th Day Adventist:	1	<1%

Uganda Fy17 Q2					
<u>Nationality</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Religion</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Congolese	577	86%	Protestant:	185	28%
Somali	79	12%	Catholic:	127	19%
South Sudanese	5	<1%	Muslim:	110	16%
Burundian	3	<1%	7th Day Adventist	90	13%
Ethiopian	2	<1%	Baptist	90	13%
Eritrean	2	<1%	Jehovah's Witness	34	0.05
Sudanese	1	<1%	Christian	25	0.04
Egyptian	1	<1%	Methodist:	3	<1%
Total	670		Orthodox:	2	<1%
			Coptic:	1	<1%

Additional Projections
Q2 Team 2 projections for Africa

Burundi Team 2 Fy17 Q2						
<u>Nationality</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>		<u>Religion</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Congolese	541	100%		Protestant:	~265	~49%
				Pentecostal:	~92	~17%
				Catholic:	~87	~16%
				Muslim:	~49	~9%
				Methodist:	~38	~7%
				Jehovah's Witness		~<1%
				Christian:		~<1%
				7th Day Adventist		~<1%
				Other:		~<1%

Ethiopia Team 2 Fy17 Q2						
<u>Nationality</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>		<u>Religion</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Somali	256	100%		Muslim:	~256	~100%

Kenya Team 2 Fy17 Q2						
<u>Nationality</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>		<u>Religion</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Somali	~410	~76%		Muslim:	~442	~82%
Congolese	~54	~10%		Christian:	~54	~10%
Ethiopian	~43	~8%		Protestant:	~16	~3%
Ugandan	~11	~2%		Pentacostal:	~11	~2%
South Sudanese	~11	~2%		Catholic:	~5	~1%
Eritrean		<1%		Orthodox:	~5	~1%
Kenyan (V93)		<1%		Baptist:		<1%
Burundian		<1%		Methodist:		<1%
Rwandan		<1%		Lutheran:		<1%
Total	539			Evangelican:		<1%
				7th Day Adventist:		<1%

Tanzania Fy17 Q2						
<u>Nationality</u>	# of Cases	Percentage		<u>Religion</u>	# of Cases	Percentage
Congolese	584	~100%		Christian:	~175	~30%
				Catholic:	~128	~22%
				Methodist:	~105	~18%
				Other Christian denom:	~146	~25%
				Other		~< 5%

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Gulati, Sonia
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 10:10 AM
To: Pehlivan, Serra; Muirragui, Emily R; Loizeaux, Andrew B (Drew); Bhalla, Amy D; Patterson, Sean A; Salber, Matthew C; Landro, Leia M; Kazimierczak, Marta K; Djaboury, Jacob G; Jones, Kelly A
Subject: RE: Executive Order and Refugee Processing

Serra,

There is no decision on Q3 CRs right now. I am not involved in FACT/SOS so please direct the TDYers to Valerie and/or Erin.

Thanks,

Sonia

From: Pehlivan, Serra
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 7:39 AM
To: Gulati, Sonia; Muirragui, Emily R; Loizeaux, Andrew B (Drew); Bhalla, Amy D; Patterson, Sean A; Salber, Matthew C; Landro, Leia M; Kazimierczak, Marta K; Djaboury, Jacob G; Jones, Kelly A
Subject: RE: Executive Order and Refugee Processing

Thanks Sonia.

How about Q3 CRs? Many TDYers reached out to me asking whether they should proceed with the scheduled FACT/SOS Training later this month.

From: Gulati, Sonia
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 9:04 PM
To: Pehlivan, Serra; Muirragui, Emily R; Loizeaux, Andrew B (Drew); Bhalla, Amy D; Patterson, Sean A; Salber, Matthew C; Landro, Leia M; Kazimierczak, Marta K; Djaboury, Jacob G; Jones, Kelly A
Subject: FW: Executive Order and Refugee Processing

All,

Per our discussion at the Branch Meeting, please go ahead and use this email for any communication with TDYers on the cancelation of Q2 CRs.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks!

Sonia

From: Ruppel, Joanna
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2017 3:02 PM
To: RAIO - ALL1
Subject: Executive Order and Refugee Processing

RAIO Colleagues,

As you know, last week we made the decision to temporarily suspend departures for both the Refugee Affairs Division (RAD) and International Operations (IO) circuit rides until February 15. We also temporarily suspended refugee interviews at all international field offices. Following further consultations with the Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), we have jointly decided that the remaining 2nd quarter circuit ride and USCIS international field office interview schedule will be completely revised. PRM is instructing the Refugee Support Centers to cancel this quarter's USCIS circuit rides and field office interviews at this time.

RAIO will be working with PRM in coming weeks and months to discuss when circuit rides and field office interviews will resume and to identify any interviews that will be needed to reach this year's revised goal of 50,000 admissions, as well as the FY18 ceiling, which has not yet been determined. At this time, we do not have any information to share on 3rd and 4th quarter circuit rides or field office processing, but we will continue to share additional information as it becomes available.

I would like to encourage you to review the RAIO ECN site that we have begun building to share information with you, as well as to provide a space for questions and collaboration:

2017 Executive Orders

You will find there a place where you may submit questions anonymously. Or, you can identify yourself in case we want to get back to you with any follow up questions to clarify your question. While the site tracks number of "responses," that actually means number of questions. It may take a bit of time, but once we have a number of questions, we will work on posting the questions and responses. Also, something to watch for in the coming weeks is that we will be seeking your views on certain implementation issues through the feedback section of that ECN site (such as additional information it would be helpful to know when processing a benefit request).

Thank you for your support, flexibility and patience.

Joanna

Joanna Ruppel
Acting Associate Director
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

 (b)(6)

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Strack, Barbara L
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 2:16 PM
To: RAIO - Refugee1
Subject: FW: Transition issues and hiring freeze

Dear RAD Staff – I wanted to follow up on Joanna’s message from yesterday evening. I understand that there were – not surprisingly – many questions at today’s Refugee Corps meeting, and there are a number of rumors being exchanged through various professional networks about the future of the USRAP.

- First, I can tell you that we – RAD/RAIO – have not been informed of any changes to the USRAP through official channels. Based on conversations with PRM today, we do not believe that PRM has been officially informed of any changes. If and when RAD receives such information, we will share it with you promptly.
- Since Joanna wrote her email yesterday evening, USCIS did obtain a copy of the hiring freeze memo that was reported by the media yesterday. However, there are still a number of questions about how this new policy affects USCIS. The Management Directorate is seeking information on this and will be providing additional guidance as soon as it is received. RAD branch chiefs have been collecting your questions, we will pass them up the chain, and we will do our best to get answers back.

Please know, across the board, that as soon as we have any information we will share it with you. It’s the nature of a transition to a new Administration that there will be changes, and that it will take some time to sort out all of the issues that are of significance to us at USCIS and at RAIO. In the meantime, thank you for your continued dedication to our shared mission.

Barbara

From: Ruppel, Joanna
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 6:12 PM
To: RAIO - ALL1
Subject: Transition issues and hiring freeze

RAIO Staff,

On this first business day of the new administration, I realize many of you have many questions about what changes will be implemented. While I am serving as Acting Associate Director, I will do my best to share information with you as soon as I know and have permission to share. It is still quite early, so I simply do not have much information at this time. What I do know is the following:

- **Hiring Freeze and Pay Freeze:** There have been reports about a federal hiring freeze and a pay freeze. The USCIS Management Directorate is seeking information on this and will be providing information as it is received. I realize there are many questions about what this means. Please hold off on sending questions to HROC at this time, as we simply do not yet have answers. If something is urgent, feel free to send it up via chain of command to me so that I can be sure that the Management Directorate is aware.
- **USCIS Transition Team.** A broadcast will be coming out shortly with information about the Beachhead Transition Team and who is on it. Please keep your eyes out for that.
- **RAIO Leadership.** We still do not know how long Jennifer Higgins will be on detail to the Department, but I will let you know as soon as we know when she will be coming back.

I know that times of transition can bring about anxiety and lead to many questions. In particular, we at HQ are going to be spending time preparing and delivering briefings to the new team, and that could also create delays in getting out guidance to the field. In some cases, we also need to wait for direction from the new administration before completing guidance in the works.

I appreciate everyone's patience as together we learn more about changes associated with this transition.

While Jennifer Higgins remains on detail to the Department, I will do my best to stand in her shoes to provide you the support you need to continue to do the meaningful work you do every day.

Joanna

Joanna Ruppel
Acting Associate Director
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate

 (b)(6)

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Jones, Kelly A
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 12:21 PM
To: Djaboury, Jacob G
Subject: RE: RAD staff meeting

Ragini says its rumors of no Syrians at all.

From: Jones, Kelly A
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9:08:39 PM
To: Djaboury, Jacob G
Subject: RE: RAD staff meeting

Info from officers at the mtg

From: Djaboury, Jacob G
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9:04:51 PM
To: Jones, Kelly A
Subject: RE: RAD staff meeting

I haven't heard any of that, how do we know this is legit?

From: Jones, Kelly A
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 1:00 PM
To: Djaboury, Jacob G
Subject: RAD staff meeting

A lot was said supposedly at the ref corp staff meeting.

No Syrians.

Admissions down to 50K

A 120 day freeze in (interview, admissions... not sure)

This could be inaccurate- but have you heard ANY of this???

Why the F would the ref corp get this before us?

?????

HOTEL

The Intercontinental is the hotel of choice for this team. The team members are:

1. David Marchick
2. Emma Deputy
3. Morgan Plumer
4. Marina Basseas
5. Ruben Enriquez
6. Rebecca Roles

AIRPORT PICKUP- MOTORPOOL

All of the officers arrive on Wednesday, February 1st on flight DL 849 from Atlanta at 12:54 PM. They will look for signs with their names.

AIRPORT DROPOFF

Some of the officers are set to continue on to Guatemala on February 25th: David Marchick, Emma Deputy, and Morgan Plumer. They will take AV 734 at 1:00pm. A 10:30am pickup from the hotel is requested.

Marina, Ruben, and Rebecca depart on flight DL552 at 1:56pm. Perhaps they can depart the hotel an hour later.

BRIEFINGS

We look forward to the RSO and gang briefing on this circuit ride on Thursday, February 2nd if possible.

DAILY MOTORPOOL:

On Thursday, February 2nd

Pick-up	From:	To:
7:45	Intercontinental	Embassy
When finished	Embassy	IOM
16:30	IOM	Intercontinental

DAILY 2/3- 2/24 :		
Pick-up	From:	To:
7:45	Intercontinental	IOM
16:30	IOM	Intercontinental

Please let me know if I can provide any other information. We're looking forward to a productive New Year!

Marta

Marta Kazimierczak
Latin America and Caribbean Desk Officer
Refugee Affairs Division, USCIS | Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 8000 | Washington, DC



(b)(6)

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Kazimierczak, Marta K
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Smith, Kristen
Subject: RE: PDBs and Circuit Rides cancelled

Yes, please. The briefings, transportation and hotel. Thank you!

From: Smith, Kristen
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Kazimierczak, Marta K
Subject: RE: PDBs and Circuit Rides cancelled

Thank you Marta. Should we cancel hotel reservations at this time?

From: Kazimierczak, Marta K
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Garza, Daisy
Cc: Smith, Kristen
Subject: PDBs and Circuit Rides cancelled

Hi Daisy,

Today we found out via the draft Executive Order on Immigration and Refugees that refugee admissions will be temporarily suspended. That means that the CAM circuit ride is cancelled until further notice and the Pre-Departure training has been called off so you don't need to dial in tomorrow. We all put a lot of work into this circuit ride already so it's unfortunate. I hope you can interview with RAD in the future. Ross will be sending an email to your Director as well.

Thank you,

Marta

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Kazimierczak, Marta K
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 10:50 AM
To: Bruce, Tamara D; Gamble, Nicole M; Canche, Guillermo E; McNary, Christopher D; Orr, Reginald V Sr; McCarroll, Shantia G; Gibson, John R; Fouda, Lauren T; Mireles, Charity J; Baines, Melodee M; Jansen, Jonathon E; Strong, Walker D; Garza, Daisy; Basseas, Marina M; Enriquez, Ruben M; Roles, Rebecca J; Lebron, Tiffany M; Borovsky, Michael A; Champion, Lauren R; Johansen, Steffi K; Schupp-Star, Rachael M; Kosinski, Gillian M; Collins, Siera N; Damron, Andrew T; Bay-Hansen, Siw M; Avila-cote, Ana; Welch, Jacqueline G; Garibay, Jorge A (FSN); Varghese, Sunil R
Subject: Q2 Circuit Rides and the Executive Order and Refugee Processing

Dear Q2 TDY'ers,
Unfortunately, it is confirmed that all of our Q2 circuit rides have been cancelled. Thank you for volunteering and for our flexibility!

Marta

From: Ruppel, Joanna
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2017 3:02 PM
To: RAIO - ALL1
Subject: Executive Order and Refugee Processing

RAIO Colleagues,

As you know, last week we made the decision to temporarily suspend departures for both the Refugee Affairs Division (RAD) and International Operations (IO) circuit rides until February 15. We also temporarily suspended refugee interviews at all international field offices. Following further consultations with the Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), we have jointly decided that the remaining 2nd quarter circuit ride and USCIS international field office interview schedule will be completely revised. PRM is instructing the Refugee Support Centers to cancel this quarter's USCIS circuit rides and field office interviews at this time.

RAIO will be working with PRM in coming weeks and months to discuss when circuit rides and field office interviews will resume and to identify any interviews that will be needed to reach this year's revised goal of 50,000 admissions, as well as the FY18 ceiling, which has not yet been determined. At this time, we do not have any information to share on 3rd and 4th quarter circuit rides or field office processing, but we will continue to share additional information as it becomes available.

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Thank you for your support, flexibility and patience.

Joanna

Joanna Ruppel
Acting Associate Director
USCIS Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate


(b)(6)